

HCS HB 1606 -- HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY CERTIFICATE

SPONSOR: Gannon

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 9 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 13 to 1.

This bill provides a high school equivalency certificate applicant with the opportunity of voluntarily submitting his or her contact information for the purposes of evaluating college and career placement rates of certificate applicants.

This bill, subject to appropriations, will also require the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to subsidize the examination fee for first-time exam takers.

This bill is similar to HB 469 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that people applying for high school equivalency are overwhelmingly in poverty. This bill removes cost as a barrier to taking the test the first time.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Gannon; JG Circle of Hope; Missouri State Teachers Association; Missouri NEA; School Administrators Coalition; and Alliance for Childhood Education.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.